

OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 26 *Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners*

Feb. 1995



Irmgard Moeller, left, released from prison in Germany, November, 1994

Photo by Marcus Hoppe

RAF Prisoner Released!

Irmgard Moeller, imprisoned for over 22 years as a member of the Red Army Faction (RAF), was finally released on December 1, 1994. Her life term was commuted to a suspended sentence. She was initially jailed in 1972, a year after she joined the RAF, for "membership in a guerrilla organization" and in 1979 she was also tried for murder and sentenced to life.

The murder charge stemmed from a 1972 bombing of the u.s. army quarters in Heidelberg. The bombing was a protest against u.s. involvement in the Vietnam war and 3 soldiers were killed.

For a while, it was questionable whether Moeller would actually be released. Because she had refused to undergo a psychiatric examination, the court refused her request for early release. Thirteen of the imprisoned RAF members went on a hunger strike from July 27 to August 13 to publicize Moeller's situation. Four months later she was released, despite strong objections from the u.s. state department.

After 22 years in prison, much of it spent in isolation, Moeller's health has suffered severely. She is still very committed to continue campaigning for the release of other political prisoners. Six of the other RAF prisoners have been inside for over 15 years in similarly harsh conditions.

We send our greetings and best wishes to Irmgard Moeller and hope that more prisoners will be released soon.

NORMA JEAN CROY

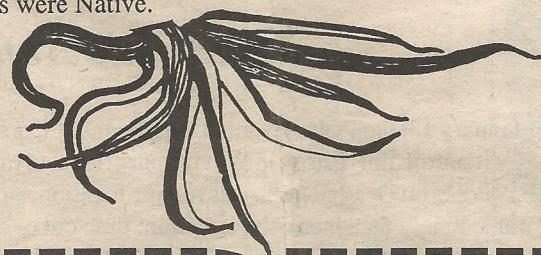
The absurd case of Norma Jean Croy continues: In early dec'94 "Norm" again went to the parole board. The bored people were their usual selves, and still did not want to hear any new evidence. Like, Norma's brother Hooty has been thru a new trial and freed on the same charges. The bored people were extremely interested in alcohol, and asked a lot of questions... Why isn't the convict attending jailhouse AA meetings? Do the women where "Norm" will live drink? How much? Is her future employer an alcoholic? These questions are not usual for a parole hearing, and the board knows quite well that "Norm" has completed a jailhouse AA program in the past. Of course there was no consideration of cultural differences. No understanding that a Native Medicine person or a Healing Circle are a viable option for a Native prisoner.

The bored people were also concerned about 'remorse' ...as defined by webster: a deep torturing sense

of guilt. They don't seem to be able to grasp the concept that one can not feel such things for an act that one did not commit. Guess it's just another example of their ignorance covered up by their arrogance that comes with being an unaccountable force in the just-us system.

ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL: The writ of habeas continues. There was a slight delay due to a still pending appeal from the '92 parole denial. The judge chose to interpret this as an unexhausted state remedy. "Norm's" attorneys have now dropped that one, and are anticipating the bulk of their evidentiary materials will be accepted by the court. This is a good thing and will be followed by more pretrial hearings on the way to a decision for a new trial.

When columbozo and his crew invaded the Caribbean, they did not find a single jail. The Native societies were structured so that there was no need for institutions of social control. The societies were a communalism where all land and means of production belonged to the community. It was only when the conqueror sought to impose his will on the indigenous people that a clash of interest along class lines happened. The first notion of the 'state' came from the conqueror. He gained control by violence, trickery, and fear. A fear of guns, courts, gallows, captivity, and death were used. Then the conqueror set himself up as the master. All the police, the judges, and the jailers were immigrants from Europe. And all the prisoners were Native.



Every issue of OUT OF TIME is put together by two or three members of Out of Control (OOC) on a rotating basis. The group as a whole doesn't edit each issue, and the articles included don't necessarily reflect the views of everyone.



Norma Jean Croy

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

1. In the fall issue of OOT we printed news of a class action suit by women prisoners in washington d.c. On December 12, 1994 a senior district court judge ruled in favor of the suit. She gave the department of corrections (DOC) 6 months to develop a harassment policy, hire a nurse midwife and a physician's assistant trained in gynecology, stop shackling inmates in labor, open a prenatal clinic and in general treat women prisoners equally with men. This isn't a major victory since the DOC is already under a court order to improve poor conditions in men's prisons.

2. Despite laws to the contrary, Florida spends one-third less on vocation programs for women and limits training to 4 traditionally low paying fields: cosmetology, bookkeeping, sewing and waste water treatment (at only one prison).

3. The federal correctional institution for women in Pleasanton, California (FCIDublin) was built to hold 300 prisoners in single cells. The current population is almost 900. Except for some in double 'wing rooms', everyone is triple celled. There is only 3 x 5 feet of empty space in each cell; space one can move around in. Privacy is non-existent to the detriment of all the prisoners.



Out of Time
c/o Out of Control Lesbian Committee
3543-18th Street, Box 30
San Francisco, CA 94110

Compassionate Release

On December 16, 1994, San Francisco Superior Court Judge Ina Levin Gyemant granted compassionate release from the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla to Cynthia Ann Greene, a prisoner dying of AIDS-related complications.

The judge's decision is the culmination of a statewide phone and fax campaign by ACT-UP/S.F. and the Coalition to Support Women Prisoners at Chowchilla (CSWPC) directed at Department of Corrections Director, James Gomez. Despite strong recommendations from prison doctors and Greene's recent bout with AIDS-related pneumonia, Gomez denied her petition in November claiming she was still "too healthy". On December 9, due to continued public pressure and Greene's obviously failing health, Gomez signed her release papers.

According to Judy Greenspan, spokesperson for the Coalition, "we are overjoyed and relieved that Cynthia has been released. However she should have been released 2 months ago when she first became very ill." Greenspan went on to point out that Gomez's initial refusal to grant Greene's release may have seriously shortened her life.

Prison advocacy organizations argue that California needs a workable compassionate release law. Two years ago a report issued by Assemblyman John Burton called for a new compassionate release policy for terminally ill prisoners. According to Miriam Berman of ACT-UP/S.F. the present compassionate release process is dependent on 'correctional' considerations rather than medical ones.

ACT-UP and the CSWPC were instrumental in winning the compassionate release of Betty Jo Ross and Joann Walker earlier in 1994. Both women died of AIDS-related diseases soon after their release. For info: CSWPC, PO Box 14844, SF, CA 94114.

READING MATERIAL

1. This Just In... is a monthly bulletin with updates written by political prisoners and prisoners of war in the U.S. about their lives in prison. It is co-ordinated by Betty and Herman Liveright, 103 Bartlett Ave. Pittsfield MA 01201. Please send donations for mailing costs.

2. With the Power of Justice in Our Eyes is a handbook for educators and activists on the crisis in prisons with articles by many involved individuals and groups. It's published by the Prison Activist Resource Center, a project of Long Haul, an activist community center at PO Box 3201, Berkeley CA 94703. Sliding scale \$10.-\$20. plus \$2.(U.S.), \$7.(Canada) for shipping. Any money above \$10. will help pay for free copies to prisoners.

3. The National Clearing House for the Defense of Battered Women puts out an excellent newsletter, Double-Time, in addition to their direct support work. Memberships are \$35.00 and up: the newsletter is free to prisoners. For more info write to 125 S. 9th St. ste 302, Phila. PA 19107.

4. The Key is published quarterly by the League for Lesbian and Gay Prisoners (LLGP), a project of the Gay Community Social Services. They appreciate contributions of art and literary works. Yearly subscriptions are \$10. Free to members of LLGP in prison, at 1202 E. Pike St., Suite 1044, Seattle, WA 98122.

5. The Prison Law Project (PLP) of the National Lawyer's Guild (NLG) has 3 publications available: Legal Journal (\$7.50/yr), Crime Statistics (\$7.50) and Guild Notes (\$7.50). Jailhouse lawyers can join the NLG for free, and automatically the PLP. Others can join the PLP on a sliding scale, \$10.-\$40./yr. includes the Legal Journal. Write to PLP, 558 Capp St. SF CA 94110. Guild Notes is distributed by the National Office of the NLG, 55 Ave. of Americas, NY NY 10013

SILVIA BARALDINI UPDATE

On December 12, there was a demonstration to celebrate Silvia Baraldini's birthday. Despite the pouring rain, about 30 people showed up to learn about, or hear the update on, her petition to be transferred back to Italy. There were speakers to talk about Norma Jean Croy's case and her on-going struggle to get an appeals hearing, as well as a speaker to talk about the poor medical conditions and extreme neglect of women's health issues in Chowchilla Women's Prison. There were Italian citizens at the rally who are visiting the US and have followed Silvia's case in Italy, as well as students from Santa Cruz who are learning about the political prisoner movement as part of their studies with Angela Davis.

There was also a demonstration and press conference in Washington DC, outside of the Justice Dept. Building. It was held by religious leaders from the US who met with officials from the Justice Dept. about their support for Silvia's release. In addition, there were many demonstrations held in Italy (in Rome, Milan, Florence, etc) urging the US to pay attention to the unanimously supported petition from the European Parliament urging the US to send Silvia back to Italy and to honor the Treaty for the International Transfer of Prisoners signed by the US years ago. It sounds like a decision will be made about Silvia's latest petition any day now. Our help may be necessary to put additional pressure on the US Justice Dept.

Mark Cook

Mark Cook is serving his 19th year in prison for events related to and claimed by the George Jackson Brigade (GJB) in the Seattle, Wash area during the 1970's. Mark maxed out on federal charges and was given to the state in fall '94. He has always been active in the struggle for prisoners' rights, and filed prosecuted litigation on behalf of the labor and safety of prisoners, especially those working for prison industries. The Wash. parole board immediately gave him a ten year hit. Mark is 58 years old and has 8 grandchildren, most of whom he has never seen.

Recently released former GJB member, Ed Mead says... "I am out here today not because I deserve it, but because I was a trouble maker. In contrast to my case, Mark Cook has maintained a good record in prison... unlike me, in the earlier years of my confinement, he did not do his work violently... I was busted (in prison) with hand grenades, pistol, and ammunition.... So, why is Mark still in prison?"

Just how much time should a person serve for committing such crimes as those allegedly committed by Mark and his GJB comrades? There are three things that need to be looked at: 1. how much time do those convicted of right wing political crimes serve? 2. how much time do social prisoners serve for the same convictions (2 counts 1st degree assault)? 3. how much time did other GJB members serve for the same range of crimes?

Right wing prisoners appear to get pats on the back in most instances. A pro-capitalist Cuban who blew up a Cuban airliner killing 76 people did about 3 years. A kkk grand dragon convicted of possession of a boat load of illegal weapons did maybe 2 years. Abortion clinic bombers don't do much time either. Social prisoners in the state of Wash. do about 5 years for 1st degree assault; and 1st degree murderers average about 17 years served. Political prisoners on the left do understand and expect to be treated more harshly than other prisoners; it comes with the territory. But Mark, the only Black male convicted in connection with GJB actions, is also serving much more time than his white counterparts. Could this be blatant racism?!

The technical legal questions that Mark wants to ask the Wash. parole and clemency officials are: 1. Why isn't Mark's federal and state sentences running concurrently like Ed's were? 2. Why hasn't the parole board used its discretion under *sentence reform act RCW 9.94A.400(3)* to run the state and federal time concurrently? 3. If Ed had 2 consecutive life terms and Mark has 2 concurrent life terms, then why must Mark serve more time than Ed?

No one is asking that Mark get some kinda break. That point was passed several years ago. The Mark Cook Freedom Committee has retained a lawyer to pursue the clemency issue. Her fee is quite reasonable and we thank her for that. But given the very high costs of the pursuit of any kind of justice in Amerika, there is still a need for cash.

Please send contributions and requests for more info to: **MARK COOK FREEDOM COMMITTEE...BOX 85763...seattle, wash 98145-2763...phone (206) 524-8597...E-mail: quawk@eskimo.com**

Mumia Abu-Jamal Moved

On January 13, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) transferred Mumia to its new super maximum security (control unit) prison in Waynesburg, located in the southwestern corner of the state. The DOC plans to move all 185 people on Death Row to this remote location, an additional 3-4 hours from Philadelphia. Death Row prisoners will immediately face increased isolation; time out of cell will be cut from 2 hours/day (5 days/week) to 1 hour/day. The 'carrot' the DOC holds up with this 'stick' is rhetoric about Death Row prisoners being able to work their way out to general population. Such promises ring hollow in the face of tighter lockdown.

Write, call or fax Superintendent James Pierce at SCI Greene, 1040 E. Roy Furman Hwy. Waynesburg, PA 15370; 412-852-2902 or fax 412-852-2909. Let him know we support Mumia and will be watching closely how he and everyone at SCI Greene is treated. You can write Mumia at the same address as James Pierce, above: Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM-8335.

OUT OF TIME

MADRID vs. GOMEZ DECISION

After one years deliberation, federal judge Thelton Henderson ordered an end to "the pattern of needless and officially sanctioned brutality" at Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) in California. In a 344 page decision, Henderson ruled that the California Department of Corrections (CDoC) has violated the 8th Amendment of the Constitution by allowing and encouraging guards to use "grossly excessive" force. The judge found that medical and psychiatric care was deliberately and maliciously neglectful, causing loss of life, disability and severe mental harm.

"Dry words on paper cannot adequately capture the senseless suffering and sometimes wretched misery that the defendants' (PBSP staff) unconstitutional practices leave in their wake."

As relief, the court appointed a Special Master who will negotiate with the CDoC and the prisoners' lawyers to develop a plan to solve the cited violations within 120 days. The Pelican Bay Information Project (PBIP) believes the decision was a great moral victory for prisoners at PBSP and prisoners nationwide. PBSP and its Security Housing Unit (SHU) was supposed to be the model high-tech, electronically controlled prison for the world. However, PBIP thinks judge Henderson should have ordered the immediate closure of the SHU facility. It is clear from his decision that the bunker-like, windowless structure is a chamber of both physical and mental torture for prisoners, 87% of whom are people of color.

It was the prisoners who began the lawsuit in 1990 with their 300 individual legal actions against the prison. It will be the prisoners who provide the Special Master with the information he needs. And it will be jailhouse lawyers, again, who read the massive legal decision and find ways to use the law to attack the CDoC as areas the judge left out. Pelican Bay prisoners must be congratulated for their bravery and effectiveness in challenging the state torture while risking, and experiencing, retaliation.

Only some aspects of the torture were ruled against. The decision leaves intact the use of long-term solitary confinement; the use of racial discrimination in placing prisoners in the SHU; the use of the notorious Snitch, Parole or Die policy; the use of hearsay evidence in gang labelling; and the use of forced confessions about gang activity. Under the u.s. constitution and UN International Treaties signed by the u.s. these practices and others are illegal and constitute torture. We fear that even the limited remedies ordered by the court will not be implemented.

EXCESSIVE FORCE

Judge Henderson found there was a deliberate practice that uses excessive and gratuitous violence, including lethal force, to punish people. The use of force as a first resort, often for trivial reasons, was condemned. Beating of prisoners after restraint in chains, backroom beatings and "criminally reckless" violent behavior by guards was found routine at PBSP, especially in the SHU.

The court comments that there are less cagings, hogtyings and cell extractions lately, but this is not true. Caging is used in new ways since the trial closed in January 1994 and hogtie chaining and suitcasings (carried by chains with ankles attached to wrists behind the back) is common. Lethal force is criticized by the judge only in that the policy on gun use is poor and not well implemented. With vague guidelines, tower guards happily choose the rifle to mete out their vengeance. The judge fails to mention that California guards have shot and killed 27 prisoners in the last five years: 7 prisoners in all other 49 states combined.

"...subjecting individuals to conditions that

are 'very likely' to render them psychotic or otherwise inflict a mental illness or exacerbate an existing mental illness can not be squared with evolving standards of humanity or decency...A risk this grave-this shocking and indecent-simply has no place in civilized society."

The court agreed that "the entire system is grossly inadequate and unsatisfactory in meeting the health care needs of the inmate population." Likewise a deliberate and shocking disregard for serious mental health needs was found.

Staffing was, and remains, inadequate and staff training is non-existent. There is no emergency care training or a suicide prevention program. Supervision is seriously deficient. Records are disorganized, incomplete and even contradictory. The Medical Technical Assistants (MTAs) have one year of training as Licensed Vocational Nurses and they perform complex tasks of diagnosis and treatment. Such use of MTAs was found to needlessly and severely harm prisoners.

SECURITY HOUSING UNIT

The judge affirmed that the SHU provides a bare, bleak environment of extreme social isolation and reduced stimulation which "will likely inflict some degrees of psychological trauma upon most inmates confined there for more than brief periods". He demands that certain groups of prisoners be screened out and excluded from the SHU because they will be harmed too severely resulting in a violation of the 8th amendment: prisoners who are mentally ill or prone to becoming mentally ill, borderline personality disorders, brain damage, mental retardation, chronic depression or impulsive personalities. The CDoC ignored the exact recommendation by its own Mental Health Services Branch before PBSP opened. Judge Henderson warns the CDoC that merely sedating mentally ill prisoners into a stupor is not constitutional but he does not address the issue that the entire mental health system is unconstitutional and that the CDoC is already in contempt of court over its failure to change.

While moving the law governing prisons forward, the Madrid decision does not bring justice to Pelican Bay State Prison. Absent is the general social context of poverty, unemployment and alienation. And absent is any mention of the prison conditions of overcrowding, idleness and lack of programs for education or rehabilitation that lead to the so-called security concerns. It is up to the people of California to demand and organize for changes. The Security Housing Unit should have been closed completely.

Pelican Bay has been the focus of much attention nationwide. But we have seen the growth of Control Unit Prisons across the country modeled on the SHU facility. Pelican Bay Information Project is part of a growing movement to abolish control units in north america. For more info contact PBIP, 2489 Mission #28, SF CA 94110

Excerpted from articles by Corey Weinstein and PBIP. All quotes are from judge Henderson's written decision.

New Control Unit Prison

In December, 1994, the federal government's newest control unit prison opened in Florence, Colorado. Costing \$200 million (!) to build, Florence is supposed to be hi-tech, maximum security; no hint of rehabilitation, just institutionalized incapacitation. It's been proven that control units, as in Marion OH or Pelican Bay CA, do not deter or reduce prison violence.

The following is excerpted from an account written by Oscar Lopez-Rivera; a Puerto Rican Prisoner of War imprisoned for 70 years. On December 21, without warning, he was transferred from Marion.

In three weeks I haven't slept one single night without being awakened every hour on the hour. This is a form of sleep deprivation. Because I'm not allowed to sleep long enough to get rested, in the morning I get up feeling like I haven't slept at all. The cells are hermetically closed. Its main purpose is to keep prisoners isolated from each other and to prevent the solidarity and support prisoners give each other. Isolation is deprivation of language-of the word.

I go to outside recreation a few times a week with another prisoner for a period of two hours each time. All I see is cement and steel. The area is built on a slant. So as I run, one side of my body is always higher than the other. Was the area designed so the prisoner injures his body?

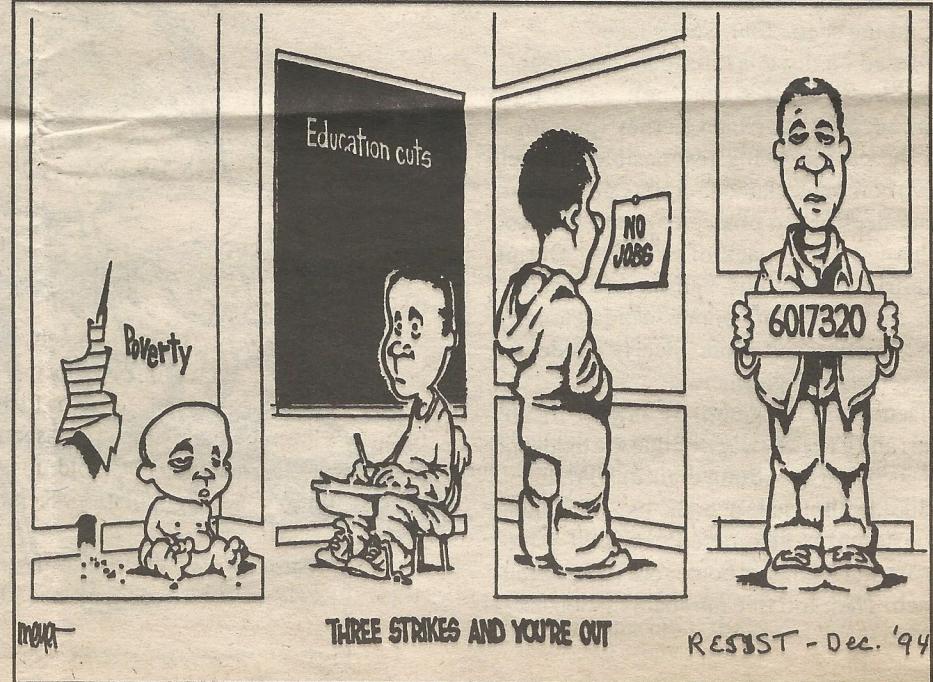
Inside recreation is in a cage a bit bigger than the cell. It has a pull up bar and dip machine. It is extremely hot, filthy with construction dust and there is no water or toilet facilities.

The first time I went to the visiting room I went through three strip searches, the poking of the body by the jailers' fingers from head to toe and the going over with the metal detector before and after. The excesses in strip searches are done to humiliate the prisoner...this is a place where the jailers' are in the process of becoming dead. Therefore we should be anticipating disasters like the ones in Pelican Bay.

The demonization of the prisoner is the basis used by the jailers to justify this place. Both the physical environment and the mind set of the jailers have been created to treat the prisoner not as a human being but as a beast. Once the prisoner is stripped of his humanity, any measure to incapacitate him is acceptable and justifiable. So besides the sensory deprivation we experience on a daily basis, we also face the potential for incapacitation from different sources or experiences.

What we have here is a breach of conscience. Is silence going to prevail? En resistancia y lucha.

For info: Shut Them Down, PO Box 1156, Boulder, CO 80306.



Crime Bill ALERT

On January 19, 1995 the house of representatives' crime subcommittee began debating the republican's "Take Back Our Streets Act of 1995", one of the 10 items in the 'contract with amerikka'. The Act consists of all the provisions the republicans couldn't get through last year.

Habeas Corpus: federal courts would no longer review the constitutionality of state criminal proceedings, but there is nothing in the proposed bill that improves the fairness of the initial trial. Instead it would repeal the right-to-counsel for federal habeas petitioners challenging state death sentences and has no provision for minimum standards for competence of counsel in state trials.

Mandatory Sentencing: dozens of mandatory minimum sentences would be created and the 'safety valve' enacted last year for first-time non-violent drug offenders would be repealed.

Prevention: all \$6 billion of the crime prevention funding in last year's crime bill would be repealed and all the money would go for more cops and prisons. Prison money would only go to states that abolished parole.

Mandatory Restitution: restitution (including liability for conduct of co-conspirators) would be mandated for most felonies, regardless of ability to pay. This would mean mandatory extra imprisonment for people without money while wealthier offenders could buy their way to freedom. Debtor's prison??

The house and the senate will be considering the crime bill in mid February. It would probably help to lobby our congresspeople. The capitol switchboard is 202-244-3121, ask to be connected to whomever you want.

fbi COVER-UP

According to an official document, the fbi blew up cars during bomb training exercises held on Louisiana Pacific Corp timberlands less than one month before an unsolved car bombing maimed EARTH FIRST organizer Judi Bari. The document was turned over to attorneys for Bari last month as part of pre-trial evidence in which the fbi and other law enforcement agencies have provided more than 3,500 pages of internal paper.

The fbi declined to comment on why it's SF office felt bomb training was necessary on the calif. N. coast on the eve of a planned series of anti-logging company protests to become known as "Redwood Summer". L-P logging operations were a primary target.

One of the chief fbi instructors was a frank doyle jr., a 20 yr veteran of the agency's International/ Domestic Terrorism Squad. One student was oakland police sgt. myron hanson, a homicide investigator. Both doyle and hanson were among the first to show at the Bari car bombing scene four weeks later.

Based on doyle's on-scene assessments, hanson and other oakland police investigators accused Bari and Cherney (passenger in the car) of being responsible for their own bombing. alameda county prosecutors later declined to proceed against Bari and Cherney due to lack of evidence. During pre-trial depositions, hanson said that during the fbi training bombs were detonated inside cars; and were placed inside the passenger compartments.

Dennis Cunningham, SF lawyer for the Bari and Cherney implied that the evidence of an fbi plot is strong enuf to STINK !

Judith Bari has a book called Timber Wars that can be ordered from Old Wives Tales, the women's bookstore in San Francisco. Their toll free number is 1-800-821-4675.

SOFT DRUGS LEGALIZED IN GERMANY

On April 28, 1994 the federal constitution kourt, Germany's highest one, ruled that possession of small quantities of hashish and marijuana should no longer be the subject of criminal penalties. This decision affirmed a lower kourt ruling that all laws against weed and hash were unconstitutional because they violated the equal protection provisions. The argument was that users of weed and hash deserved the same protection as users of other intoxicants, such as alcohol and tobacco. The kourt held that possession of cannabis products "in small quantities and exclusively for personal use" would be legal. The ruling leaves it up to the states to decide what constitutes a "small quantity".

The new German policy is not as tolerant as that in the Netherlands. Poland, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and England have changed the severity of their laws dealing with hash and weed. The Columbian supreme kourt also recently ruled that the criminalization of marijuana possession was unconstitutional.

As the rest of the world calls a truce in the failed "war on drugs" the u.s. continues its futile effort of draconian penalties and ever harsher punishments. California is a prime example. Possession of a joint can now cost you suspension of your drivers license for six months. What's up with that???

SHORT ITEMS, but IMPORTANT

DEADLY FORCE: The state of California has issued emergency regulations prohibiting guards from using firearms to break up fist fights among prisoners. The Orange County Register reported that guards have killed three times as many inmates between 1989 and 1994 as in all other state and federal prisons combined: at least 27 prisoners have been shot to death, compared with 7 nationwide.

DEATH ROW: There are currently 6 women on death row in California; all imprisoned at Chowchilla Prison. The women are very isolated and rarely receive visitors. They are kept in the Security Housing Unit building with a cage built around them and a tiny exercise yard. We hope to have more information in the next issue of OOT.



Dearie, the spell is "eye of newt" not body of Newt!

Mining in Newe Segobia

"It is our duty as Western Shoshone to protect this land, air and water for future generations." Carrie Dann

The Western Shoshone Defense Project (WSDP) and the Citizen Alert Native American Program (CANAP) are requesting our support to help respond to the Cortez Pipeline Gold Deposit Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This document, released by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) describes the development of a massive new gold mine in Crescent Valley. The proposed project will have serious effects on the environmental health of the area that includes the Dann sisters' traditional use lands.

Ignoring the long term effects this project will have, the BLM is pushing forward. The pipeline project intends to dewater at an initial rate of approximately 30,000 gallons/ minute, annually pumping 49,000 acre feet of ground water. Among other effects, this will increase the chance of contaminating the ground water with cyanide. Cyanide is used in extracting gold.

The Western Shoshone recognize the importance of water to the existence of all their relations. Water is sacred, the source of all life. The destruction or contamination of their water supply would be an ecological and cultural form of genocide.

As the original inhabitants of Newe Segobia, the Western Shoshone retain their rights and responsibilities towards the waters within their aboriginal territory. Thus the expropriation, exploitation and removal of these waters by the proposed pipeline project is in violation of the Treaty of Ruby Valley and an infringement of Western Shoshone sovereignty. Any input by the Dann sisters has been ignored throughout the entire planning process.

What can you do to help? 1. Contribute to a mining defense fund established by the WSDP to help pay expenses involved in opposing the pipeline. 2. Volunteer at the WSDP. Volunteer activist base camp is maintained near the Dann ranch. Please come self sufficient. 3. Lobby your elected representatives to recognize Western Shoshone sovereignty and reform the archaic 1872 Mining Law.

Other addresses to write to include Dave Davis, Pipeline Project EIS Team Leader, BLM, Battle Mountain District Office, PO Box 1420, Battle Mountain, NE 89820; Cynthia Pinto, Native American Consultation Coordinator, BLM Nevada State Office, PO Box 12000, Reno, NE 89520; Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, 18th & C St. NW Washington DC 20240

For more info and to send money: WSDP, PO Box 211106, Crescent Valley NE 89821. Information for this article came from the WSDP Newsletter, Action Alert.